I SEN. You cannot make gross sins look clear; To revenge is no valour, but to bear.

ALCIB. My lords, then, under favour, pardon me,
If I speak like a captain,— Why do fond men expose themselves to battle, And not endure all threatnings[5] ? sleep upon it, And let the foes quietly cut their throats, Without repugnancy ? but if there be Such valour in the bearing, what make we Abroad[6] ? why then, women are more valiant, That stay at home, if bearing carry it; And th' ass, more captain than the lion; the fellow[7],

5 — threatnings ?] Old copy—threats. This slight, but judicious change, is Sir Thomas Hanmer's. In the next line but one, he also added, for the sake of metre,—but—. STEEVENS.

6 ,----------what MAKE WE Abroad ?] What do we, or what have we to do in the field. JOHNSON.

See vol. viii. p. 15CX, n. 5. MALONE.

7 And th' ass, MORE CAPTAIN than the lion, &c.] Here is another arbitrary regulation [the omission of—captaiit] : the original reads thus :

"----------—what make we
" Abroad? why then, women are more valiant
"* That stay at home, if bearing carry it: " And the ass, more captain than the lion, "
The/e^oto, loaden with irons, wiser than the judge, "If wisdom," &c. I think it may be better adjusted thus :

«----------what make we
" Abroad ? why then *the* women are more valiant
f*That stay at home;
" If bearing carry it, *then is* the ass
" More captain than the lion ; and *ihejfelon*
f(Loaden with irons, wiser," &c, JOHNSON.

"-------if *bearing* carry it: " Dr. Johnson when he proposed to connect this hemistich with the following line instead of the preceding words, seems to have forgot one of our author's favourite propensities. I have no doubt that the present arrangement is >right.

Mr. Pope, who rejected whatever he did not like, omitted the